

## Section 11: Pathways to Achievements / Next Steps



Photo: Michelle Fletcher

Section 11

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Since the publication of the Lake Erie LaMP 2000 report, significant progress has been made in many areas. Achievements include:

- o selecting Ecosystem Alternative 2 as the preferred future state of the lake;
- o proposing ecosystem management objectives;
- o completing the beneficial use impairment assessment for Degraded Wildlife Populations and Loss of Wildlife Habitat;
- o continuing to promote and track reductions in mercury and PCBs to Lake Erie;
- o initiating a source track down program for critical pollutants and pollutants of concern to Lake Erie;
- o hosting two workshops by the Lake Erie Millennium Plan;
- o production of an educational slide show and fish consumption brochure by the Forum; and
- o continuing to monitor and follow up on ongoing and emerging issues.

In addition to the projects in this report specifically attributed to the Lake Erie LaMP effort, the Lake Erie LaMP will continue to coordinate with and track the progress of a number of ongoing programs focused on the Great Lakes and/or Lake Erie. Of particular importance will be coordinating with and tracking the progress/successes of the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy, the RAPs, the Lake Erie Millennium Plan, and SOLEC. The LaMP recognizes that an adaptive management approach is paramount to identifying and addressing the most critical needs of Lake Erie as its ecosystem continues to change. Therefore, the LaMP will:

- o continue to evaluate the state of the lake;
- o be cognizant of emerging issues;
- o identify research, monitoring and funding needs; and
- o with its partners, facilitate, expand, alter and/or adapt the LaMP work plan to best protect and restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of Lake Erie.

Outlined in Table 9 are projects and programs that the Lake Erie LaMP plans to pursue over the next two years. The work plan is limited to those projects over which the Lake Erie LaMP has control, and does not include those programs implemented by partner agencies under other program mandates. However, LaMP partner programs are key to the successful implementation of the LaMP, and the LaMP partners are encouraged to develop, implement and track agency-specific work plans in support of LaMP goals.

**Table 9: Lake Erie LaMP Work Plan 2002 – 2004**

ECOSYSTEM OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Select candidate suite of ecosystem indicators and define quantifiable endpoints</li> <li>o With partner agencies and stakeholders, develop regional actions plans in support of ecosystem management objectives and indicators</li> <li>o Develop monitoring protocol for selected indicators</li> <li>o Implement monitoring programs in selected watersheds to determine effectiveness of monitoring protocol</li> </ul>
BENEFICIAL USES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Assess the nature and extent of stresses contributing to beneficial use impairments and clearly identify where the use impairment is occurring</li> <li>o Conduct a gap analysis to determine the adequacy of existing programs to restore beneficial uses</li> <li>o Update status of Beneficial Uses Impairment Assessments as new information becomes available</li> </ul>
HABITAT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Conduct a binational bioregional planning assessment to promote and implement habitat protection and restoration projects</li> <li>o Encourage the implementation of ecosystem and habitat restoration projects in tributaries to Lake Erie with a focus on ecological function/habitat quality along with habitat quantity</li> <li>o Encourage partner agencies to incorporate monitoring of indicators selected for Lake Erie into habitat programs in the Lake Erie basin wherever possible</li> <li>o Identify and support existing habitat (and fish and wildlife) management objectives for Lake Erie basin through the LaMP and promote the integration of LaMP habitat objectives into existing programs in the basin</li> <li>o Encourage and promote stronger controls on key stressors impacting habitats in the Lake Erie Basin (e.g., land use and associated sediment/nutrient loadings through Smart Growth or other “sustainable growth” initiatives, control of exotic species)</li> <li>o Identify fish and wildlife habitat research priorities through the Lake Erie Millennium Plan</li> </ul>
SOURCES AND LOADINGS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Continue to track the progress of the Great Lakes Binational Toxic Strategy in regard to actions that may reduce loadings of the Lake Erie pollutants of concern</li> <li>o Continue to support implementation of PCB and mercury reduction activities identified in the PCB and mercury action plans in LaMP 2000</li> <li>o Screen Canadian Lake Erie tributary sediments for critical pollutants, analyze the screening data to identify priorities for confirmatory sampling at tributaries showing elevated levels of the critical pollutants, and initiate track down projects as appropriate</li> <li>o Ensure track down activities are coordinated with RAP efforts in both the U.S. and Canada</li> </ul>
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Provide support to the Lake Erie Forum to assist in the achievement of their priorities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o public education and awareness of mercury in the Lake Erie Ecosystem</li> <li>o public education and awareness on the impacts of land use activities on Lake Erie including demonstrations in local communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Provide LaMP program and status of Lakes Erie ecosystem updates to the Lake Erie stakeholders through newsletters, brochures, workshops and conferences</li> </ul>